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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,980	03/31/2004	Motoaki Miyazaki	KUSUMOTO 225-KFM F62-US	8643
7590	06/29/2005		EXAMINER	HOANG, TU BA
Karl F. Milde, Jr., Esq. MILDE & HOFFBERG, L.L.P. Suite 460 10 Bank Street White Plains, NY 10606			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3742	
DATE MAILED: 06/29/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/814,980	MIYAZAKI, MOTOAKI
Examiner	Art Unit	
Tu Ba Hoang	3742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>05/14/04</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is too long. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, the phrase "glass-melting dep furnace" recited at lines 1-2 is vague and cannot be clearly understood. Does applicant mean "deep" instead of "dep"?

The phrases "a height of the side wall is twice or more than twice as long as an inside dimension of the bottom" recited at lines 8-10 and "distances from the heating electrodes to the bottom of the furnace are as long as or longer than the inside dimension of the bottom" recited at lines 10-12 render the claim indefinite because since the shape or size or configuration of the bottom has not yet been defined, one can not determine its inside dimension. What is the inside dimension of the bottom of the furnace in particular? Is it referred to the length, the width, or the thickness of the bottom? Such dimension must be clearly defined.

In claim 10, there is insufficient antecedent basis for "said feeder" recited at line 3 in the claim or from the preceding claim 1 or 7.

Claim 12 is indefinite as for the similar reason set forth in claim 1 above. Furthermore, the phrase "**heating molten glass obtained by thermally melting the electrodes** jutting..." recited at lines 7-8 renders the claim indefinite because the electrodes are clearly for thermally heating the molten glass but the molten glass is not obtained by melting the electrodes. Clarification is needed. There are also insufficient

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antecedent bases for "the electrodes" recited at lines 7-8, "the heating electrodes" recited at lines 13-14 and "the group of electrodes" recited at line 13. Such group of electrodes, heating electrodes and others must be clearly defined.

The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6 and 12-13 as being best understood are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bansal et al (US 4,143,232). Bansal et al shows an electric glass melting furnace comprising a bottom and a side wall 11 constructed by fireproof bricks or refractory material (column 4, lines 44-46) on the perimeter of the bottom (as shown in Figure 1, a plurality of electrodes 31-33 jut from the inner surface of the side wall 1 for passing heating current through the molten glass (as shown by the arrows), wherein the plurality of electrodes include auxiliary electrodes 33 for heating the molten glass by generating smaller amount of heat than the heating electrodes 31,32 with the heating electrodes are placed at different levels from the bottom of the furnace, the height of the side wall 11 is at least twice the height or thickness of the bottom and the distance from the heating electrodes 31,32 to the bottom of the furnace are at least longer than thickness or height of the bottom.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record does not show the side wall extends upwardly from the perimeter of the bottom, inclines inwardly, and is substantially trapezoidal in shape as recited in claim 7.

Claims 7-11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tu Ba Hoang whose telephone number is (571) 272-4780. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-fri from 8:30AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on (571) 272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Tu Ba Hoang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3742

June 26, 2005